

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

FORMAL MATTERS:

Claims 15-27 were examined. Claims 15-20, 24 and 28 were rejected. Claims 21-23 and 25-27 were objected to but indicated to be allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability.

By this Amendment, claims 21-23, 25 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 15 and 27 have been amended, and claims 29-53 have been added. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of allowable claim 21. Allowable claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 29. Allowable claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 37. Allowable claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 45. Allowable claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 53. Claim 27 has been amended to change its dependency from cancelled claim 26 to new claim 53. New claims 30-36, 38-44 and 46-52 are dependent or have a chain of dependency on claims 29, 37 and 45, respectively, wherein they reflect the limitations of claims 16-20 and 24, which are dependent upon amended claim 15.

Claims 15-20, 24 and 27-53 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Rejections Under §102

Claims 15-20, 24 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (6,152,937).

While Applicants do not agree with the basis of this rejection, they have nonetheless amended the claim set to include claims having only the limitations of those claims indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, the claim amendments made herein have made this rejection moot.

Conclusion


Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

USSN: 09/991,469

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number CNVG-007CIP.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 10/14/04

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